



Serial No. 09/668,421

What is claimed is:

✓ 1 - 197. (CANCELLED)

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✓ 198. (ALLOWED) A system for transferring items having value in a computer network comprising:

a plurality of user terminals coupled to a computer network;

a database system coupled to said network and remote from said plurality of user terminals for storing information about one or more users using said plurality of user terminals; and

a server system coupled to said network, said server system comprising cryptographic capabilities for transferring an item having value utilizing said information stored in said database system.

✓ 199. (ALLOWED) The system of claim 198, further comprising a plurality of postal security device data stored in said database system for ensuring authenticity of each of said one or more users, wherein each postal security device data is related to one of said users and said postal security device data related to said one of said users associated with said cryptographic capabilities when said one of said users requests to print said item having value.

[200. (CANCELLED)]

3 ~~201~~. (ALLOWED) The system of claim ~~198~~¹, wherein said database system comprises data for creating indicium, account maintenance, and revenue protection.

4 ~~202~~. (ALLOWED) The system of claim ~~198~~¹, wherein said item having value is a mail piece.

5 ~~203~~. (ALLOWED) The system of claim ~~198~~¹, wherein said server system comprising said cryptographic capabilities further comprises a cryptographic device generates a digital signature in response to a user request for printing.

6 ~~204~~. (ALLOWED) The system of claim ~~198~~¹, wherein said server system comprising said cryptographic capabilities further comprises a cryptographic device that encrypts the requested information in response to a user request for printing said item having value.

7 ~~205~~. (ALLOWED) The system of claim ~~202~~⁴, wherein said server system comprising said cryptographic capabilities further comprises a cryptographic device that generates data sufficient to print a postal indicium in compliance with postal service regulations on said mail piece.

8 ~~206~~. (ALLOWED) The system of claim ~~198~~¹, wherein said item having value comprises a ticket.

9 ~~207~~. (ALLOWED) The system of claim ~~198~~¹, wherein a bar code is printed on said item having value.

10 ~~208~~. (ALLOWED) The system of claim ~~198~~¹, wherein said item having value comprises a coupon.

11 ~~209~~. (ALLOWED) The system of claim ~~199~~², wherein said postal security device data comprises an ascending register value, a descending register value, a respective cryptographic device ID, and an indicium key certificate serial number.

12 ~~210~~. (ALLOWED) The system of claim ~~199~~², wherein said postal security device data comprises a private key, a public key, and a public key certificate, wherein said private key is used to sign device status responses and said item having value which, in conjunction with said public key certificate, demonstrates that said postal security device and said item having value are authentic.

13 ~~211~~. (ALLOWED) The system of claim ~~210~~¹², wherein said private key is used to sign device status responses.

14 ~~212~~. (ALLOWED) The system of claim ~~210~~¹², wherein said item having value in conjunction with said public key certificate, authenticates said postal security device and said item having value.

¹⁵ ~~213~~. (ALLOWED) The system of claim ¹~~198~~, wherein said cryptographic capabilities comprises a cryptographic device and said cryptographic device protects data using a stored secret.

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¹⁶ ~~214~~. (ALLOWED) The system of claim 213, wherein said secret is a password.

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¹⁷ ~~215~~. (ALLOWED) The system of claim ¹⁵~~213~~, wherein said secret is a public and private key pair.

¹⁸ ~~216~~. (ALLOWED) A method for secure processing of items having value in a computer network comprising a plurality of user terminals comprising:

storing information about one or more users using a plurality of user terminals in a database system coupled to a network and remote from said plurality of user terminals; and

performing secure functions for an item having value utilizing said information stored in said database system to execute cryptographic capabilities remote from said plurality of user terminals.

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¹⁹ ~~217~~. (ALLOWED) The method of claim ¹⁸~~216~~ further comprising storing a plurality of postal security device data in said database system, wherein each of said security device data is related to one of said users.

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~~20~~ 218. (ALLOWED) The method of claim ~~217~~¹⁹ further comprising loading a postal security device data related to said cryptographic capabilities when said one of said users requests to print a said item having value .

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~~21~~ 219. (ALLOWED) The method of claim ~~216~~¹⁸ further comprising authenticating the identity of each user.

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~~22~~ 220. (ALLOWED) The method of claim ~~219~~²¹ further comprising verifying that the identified user is authorized to print said item having value.

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~~23~~ 221. (ALLOWED) The method of claim ~~216~~¹⁸, wherein said item having value is a mail piece.

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~~24~~ 222. (ALLOWED) The method of claim ~~216~~¹⁸, wherein said cryptographic capabilities are provided by a cryptographic device configured to generate a digital signature in response to a user request for printing said item having value.

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~~25~~ 223. (ALLOWED) The method of claim ~~216~~¹⁸, wherein said cryptographic capabilities comprises a cryptographic device configured to encrypt the requested information in response to a user request for printing said having value.

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~~26~~ 224. (ALLOWED) The method of claim ~~221~~²³, wherein cryptographic capabilities comprises a cryptographic device configured to generate data sufficient to print a postal indicium compliance with postal service regulations on said mail piece.

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~~27~~ 225. (ALLOWED) The method of claim ~~216~~, wherein said item having value is a ticket.

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~~28~~ 226. (ALLOWED) The method of claim ~~216~~, wherein a bar code is printed on said item having value.

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~~29~~ 227. (ALLOWED) The method of claim ~~216~~, further comprising printing a coupon.

√ 228. - 240. (CANCELLED)